

the Indo-Tibetan species, this distinctive species with uncertain affinity shows superficial resemblance to *Arenaria monosperma* Williams in its slender habit, linear one-nerved sharply acute leaves, and solitary axillary and terminal flowers; but it differs in its annual growth, presence of a single line of hairs on the stems, two lines of hairs on the pedicels, petals longer than the subacute sepals, and in the 3-6-seeded capsule.

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CENTRAL NATIONAL HERBARIUM  
BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA  
CALCUTTA, INDIA

## THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED  
JUNE 30, 1969

IT SEEMS AN APPROPRIATE TIME, while preparing the annual Director's Report, to reflect on the pleasures and difficulties of implementing the original purpose of the Arboretum "to grow all of the trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants hardy in the vicinity of West Roxbury" and the concomitant goal of increasing our knowledge of these plants, their relatives, and the vegetation associated with them in their natural areas. How well this charge is being accomplished the record will show.

Again in the first months of 1969, New England suffered characteristic diversity of climate. A severe ice storm in January was localized in the suburban area, causing extensive damage on the Case Estates in Weston, but none in Jamaica Plain. Two storms in February and one in March produced accumulations of wet heavy snow that damaged plants severely, primarily in Jamaica Plain, almost equalling the destruction of past hurricanes. The weather bureau reported a record of 47.6 inches of snow in Boston for February alone (annual average is 41.7 inches), including probably the longest recorded period of uninterrupted snow fall, 78 hours. The accumulation was even greater at the Arboretum than that officially reported at the airport. The extent of damage is almost immediately apparent to visitors because of the nearly complete destruction of the *Magnolia stellata* plantings near the Administration Building as well as in the loss of some entire trees, and many branches, in the cluster of 40-year old specimens of *Prunus sargentii*. Elsewhere on the grounds the damage was equally severe, as in the species apples; the oaks, where a single large tree well over 200 years old was toppled; in the conifers; and in the *Carpinus* and *Ostrya* collections. The grounds crew used chain saws and brush chippers to handle the damaged branches in an immediate effort to clear the grounds, later returning the wood as mulch to the area. Proper pruning and repair of the damaged trees will take the rest of the year. Replacements for many specimen trees must be propagated so that clones of known lineage will be retained. There is still injury to be assessed in the shrub collection where many specimens which were bent to the ground, their branches twisted or fractured, may not live through the season. However, even though the damage of the winter of 1968-69 will long be evident, the spring season which followed was again without a late frost and the display of forsythias, lilacs, crab apples, tree peonies, and rhododendrons was superb. The spring was, in fact, one of the finest in many years.

**Staff:**

The President and Fellows of Harvard College approved the promotion of Associate Curators Dr. Lorin I. Nevling, Dr. Bernice G. Schubert, and Dr. Carroll E. Wood to be Curators, effective July 1, 1969.

Dr. Alfred Linn Bogle, a graduate of the University of Minnesota was appointed Assistant Curator at the beginning of this fiscal year; Dr. Thomas S. Elias, who recently received his degree from St. Louis University, was also appointed an Assistant Curator, effective July 1, 1969. Both men will work with Dr. Wood in continuing the preparation of the *Generic Flora of the Southeastern United States*.

Dr. Beryl S. Vuilleumier concluded her term of work on the *Southeastern Flora* project and has taken up research problems on her own recent South American collections.

Mr. Robert S. Hebb, a recent graduate of the Gardening program at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, is serving as Assistant Horticulturist. Mrs. Winifred P. Hebb is an assistant in the herbarium and library.

The President and Fellows approved the appointment of Mrs. Ara R. Derderian as Honorary Curator of the Bonsai Collection, effective June 1, 1969.

Honors from outside the University were received by two members of the staff. Dr. Wyman was awarded the Veitch Memorial Medal, in gold, of the Royal Horticultural Society with the citation "By this Veitch Medal we today pay tribute to Dr. Wyman's contribution to the science, to the practice, and to the literature of horticulture." Since the medal is rarely awarded to persons outside of England, we are happy to record that Dr. Wyman is the third member of our staff to receive this prestigious honor.

Dr. Bernice Schubert, together with Dr. Lyman B. Smith, of the Smithsonian Institution, received the Eva Kenworthy Gray award of the American Begonia Society in recognition of their joint contribution of original material which aided members of the Society in the study of begonias. These botanists have published a series of papers on the classification and distribution of *Begonia* in Central and South America.

Dr. Wyman was elected a Vice-President of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and Dr. DeWolf was asked to serve on the Library Committee of the Society. Dr. Schubert was elected a member of the Council of the Society for Economic Botany.

**Horticulture:**

The development of the Weld-Walter Street tract of land for expansion of the living collection was begun during the winter months of the current fiscal year. This tract of 15 acres is held by Harvard University for the purposes of the Arnold Arboretum. Our own crew repaired and reconditioned the stone wall surrounding a large part of the land. After competitive bidding a contract was let to place units of 4- and 6-foot chain-link fence around the area. Two driving gates and three pedestrian gates will control access to the property. A second contract, for land